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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/941,284 | 08/28/2001 | Alain Charles | SC0112WD | 8393 |
| 23125 | 7590 | 02/25/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| MOTOROLA INC AUSTIN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW SECTION 7700 WEST PARMER LANE MD: TX32/PL02 AUSTIN, TX 78729 | | | ROSASCO, STEPHEN D | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1756 | |
| DATE MAILED: 02/25/2004 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/941,284

Applicant(s)

CHARLES ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen Rosasco

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8/28/01. 6) ☐ Other:

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Detailed Action

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 3-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Bonora et al. (5,570,990) or Maney et al. (5,166,884).

The claimed invention is directed to an electronic device for a mask container that is adopted to carry a lithography mask between a first station for first processing and a second station for second processing at a later time point, said electronic device comprising

a receiver unit to receive first data;

a memory unit to temporarily store said first data;

a processor unit to process an instruction that uses said first data and to provide

second data, the second data indicating how the second station uses the

lithography mask for second processing to determine final quality and

quantity of said second processing; and a transmitter unit to transmit said second data.

Bonora et al. teach (see FIG. 10) a mobile loader stocker 110 engaging container 18-1, which is mated to port 24 of processing station 12. FIGS. 8 and 10 show container 18-1 with an intelligent data card 232-1 mounted on its side. Port 24 of processing station 12 includes means 236 for communicating with data card 232-1.

A more detailed description of data card 232-1 and the communications means 236 are found in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,097,421; 4,974,166; and 5,166,884; which are incorporated by reference. The means 236 for communicating with data card 232-1 is connected to a data processor (not shown) in the processing station 12. The data processor on the processing

station may include a keyboard for the operator to enter instructions. The communicating means 236 includes a photosensitive transistor (not shown) or other photodetector which responds to data transmitted by light emitting diodes (not shown) or other communication means.

Maney et al. teach a system for performing a series of processing steps for a group of articles, comprising: a transportable container for the group of articles, said transportable container including: first interface means for controlling access to the group of articles in said transportable container, and data handling means for receiving, storing and transmitting data relating to the identity and processing history of each article in the group of articles;

a plurality of workstations, each said workstation including: second interface means for interfacing with said first interface means;

communication means for receiving data from and transmitting data to said data handling means, for processing the data received from said data handling means, and for controlling said first and second interface means to permit access to the article in said transportable container based on a comparison of the processing history of the article and the identity of the workstation; and

processing means for processing selected ones of the articles in the group of articles in response to the comparison of the processing history of each of the articles in the group of articles and the identity of the workstation.

And wherein each said communication means is for transmitting processing history data to said data handling means.

Maney et al. also teach in FIG. 1, a semiconductor wafer processing station 100 is shown. A given semiconductor manufacturing process may include any number of processing stations such as the station 100 shown in FIG. 1. The stations are manufactured to handle

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processing steps such as the application of photo resist materials, the alignment of masks for exposing photo resist materials, the deposition of materials on semiconductor wafers, and so forth.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 3-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saka et al. (5,434,790) in view of Bonora et al. (5,570,990) or Maney et al. (5,166,884).

The claimed invention is directed to an electronic device for a mask container that is adopted to carry a lithography mask between a first station for first processing and a second station for second processing at a later time point, said electronic device comprising

- a receiver unit to receive first data;

- a memory unit to temporarily store said first data;

- a processor unit to process an instruction that uses said first data and to provide

- second data, the second data indicating how the second station uses the

- lithography mask for second processing to determine final quality and

- quantity of said second processing; and a transmitter unit to transmit said second data.

Saka et al. teach a versatile production system in which a communication-memory unit is attached to a product, or to a pallet carrying the product, while the product is conveyed along the production line. The communication-memory unit communicates with a line host controller via line terminals located at production line assembling and testing sites in order to send information relating to the product from the communication-memory unit to the line host

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controller and to the communication-memory unit from the line host controller. Information can also be transferred from the communication-memory unit to the line terminals for output to a production worker and input by a production worker from a line terminal to the communication-memory unit. In this manner, the communication-memory unit contains manufacturing information relating to the product and this information is electronically updated at each production line site. The communication-memory unit can be emplaced in the side surfaces, top surfaces, or bottom surface of a pallet so as to allow communication and be detachable from the pallet. A pallet could also include an indented storage area or a basket-like enclosure to accommodate subassemblies or test equipment placed therein.

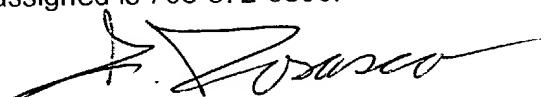
The teachings of Saka et al. differ from those of the applicant in that the applicant teaches the electronic device for use with a mask in a wafer production system.

Bonora et al. or Maney et al. teach (see above) similar devices for use with a mask in a mask. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to take the teachings of Saka et al. and combine them with the teachings of Bonora et al. or Maney et al. and use the device of Saka et al. with a mask in order to make the claimed invention because the prior art clearly shows that masks are used with these types of devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Rosasco whose telephone number is 571-272-1389. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Huff, can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

For general information call (571-272-1700).



S. Rosasco
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1756

S. Rosasco
2/18/04